

Massachusetts

Occupational Injuries and Illnesses

As Compiled by
The Massachusetts Division of Occupational Safety
and the U.S. Department of Labor



Construction Industry 2000 Report

The Massachusetts Division of Occupational Safety, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, has produced both national and state-specific data on private sector workplace injuries and illnesses. Annual surveys are collected from private establishments in each state and processed by a designated agency. During the 2000 survey cycle, 5,805 establishments were surveyed in Massachusetts and 243,126 establishments were surveyed nationwide. The following data have been selected to give a detailed look at the Construction Industry in Massachusetts.

The State of Massachusetts recorded a population of 6,349,097 in the year 2000, and 2,866,344 of those people were employed in the private sector (408,760 people were also employed in the public sector). (Source: Massachusetts Division of Employment and Training, U.S. Department of Labor). Construction

Chart 2: Incidence rates¹ of nonfatal injuries and illnesses (per 100 full time workers), Construction, MA & US 1996-2000

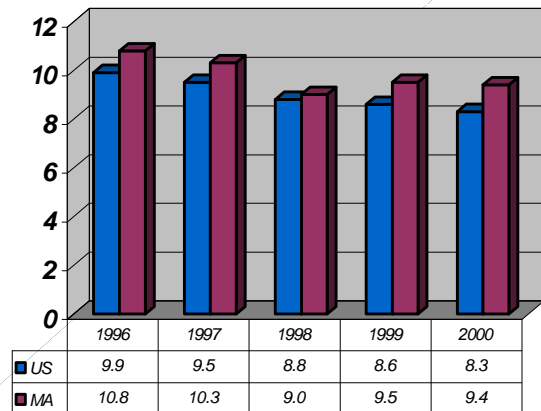
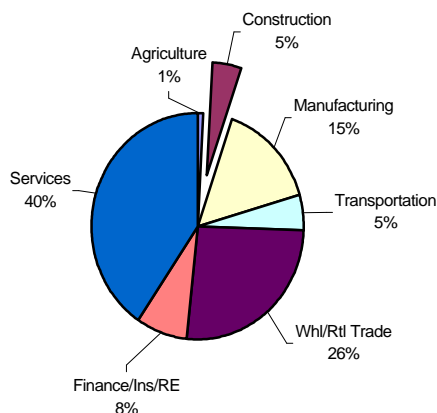


Chart 1: Percent employment in Massachusetts by industry, 2000

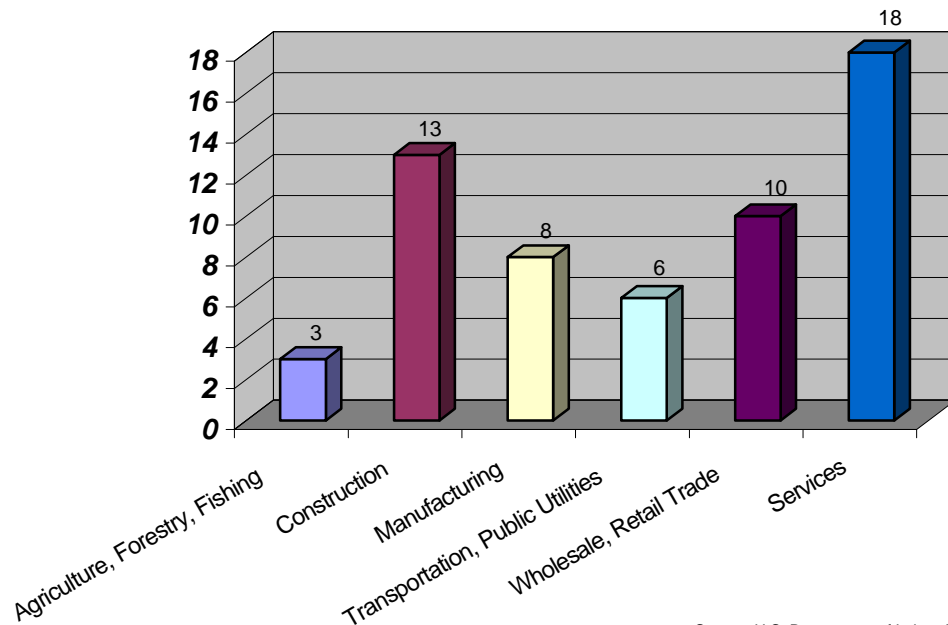


Employment is expressed as an annual average and is derived primarily from the BLS-State Covered Employment and Wages program.

made up five percent of the total number of private industry employees in Massachusetts in 2000, or 130,100 workers. The Services Industry made up the largest portion of employees in 2000 at 40%, or 1,160,400 workers; Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing had 24,000; Transportation and Public Utilities 141,100; Manufacturing 436,100; Wholesale and Retail Trade 748,900; and Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate made up eight percent or 224,100 workers. (See Chart 1.)

Within the Construction Industry in Massachusetts, the incidence rate¹ of occupational injuries and illnesses was 9.4 in the year 2000, or a total of 10,900 occupational injuries and illnesses as a whole. In comparison, the rate in 1999 was 9.5, in 1998 the rate was 9.0, in 1997 it was 10.3 and in 1996 it was 10.8. See Chart 2 for a comparison of Massachusetts to the National rates.

Chart 3: Number of fatal occupational injuries by major industry, 2000

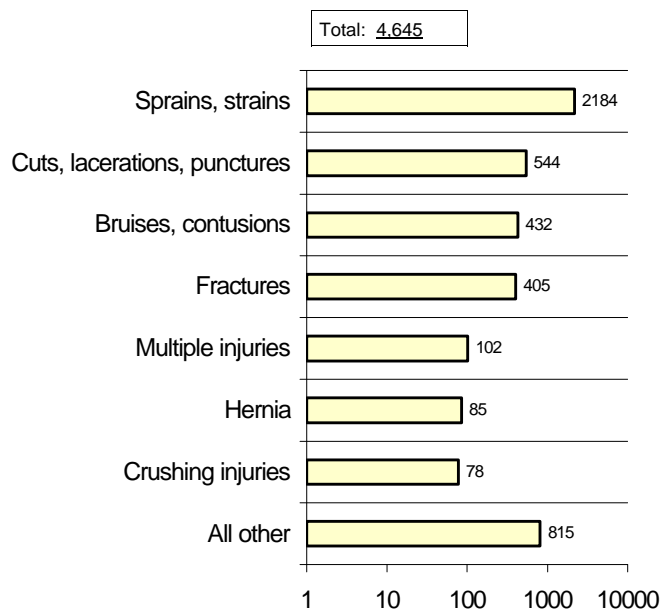


Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with State and Federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

The Construction Industry suffered 13 occupational deaths in Massachusetts in the year 2000. Chart 3 details the major industries in Massachusetts and the number of fatalities that occurred in each. In 2000, the Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing Industry had three fatal occupational injuries; Manufacturing had eight; Transportation and Public Utilities, six; Wholesale and Retail Trade, 10; and Services had 18. The major causes of occupational deaths in Massachusetts were falls, homicides, and transportation accidents.

In the year 2000, Construction Industry workers suffered 4,645 occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work. Chart 4 shows the distribution of the lost time injury cases by the nature of the injury or illness. Of the total, 2184 injuries or illnesses were strains or sprains, 544 were cuts, lacerations, or punctures, 432 were bruises or contusions, and 405 were fractures. (See Chart 4 for all other natures of injury or illness and the number of workers they represent.)

Chart 4: Number of nonfatal injuries and illnesses involving days away from work by nature of injury or illness, Construction, 2000



An estimated 10,900 workers suffered occupational injuries or illnesses in the Construction Industry in 2000, up from about 10,000 in 1999; 8,700 in 1998; 9,200 in 1997; and 8,900 in 1996 . Of the total injuries in 2000, 4,645 injuries or illnesses resulted in days away from work. Chart 5 details the distribution of lost time cases by the event or exposure of the injury or illness. Of the 4,645, 1,035 were the result of worker overexertion; 929 were the result of the worker being struck by an object; and 565 were the result of the worker striking against an object. (See Chart 5 for all other events of injury or illness and the numbers of workers they represent.)

Of the 10,900 total reportable cases of occupational injury and illness in 2000, 5,400 of these cases resulted in days away from work or restricted workdays, or both,

Chart 5: Number of nonfatal injuries and illnesses involving days away from work by event or exposure of injury or illness, Construction, 2000

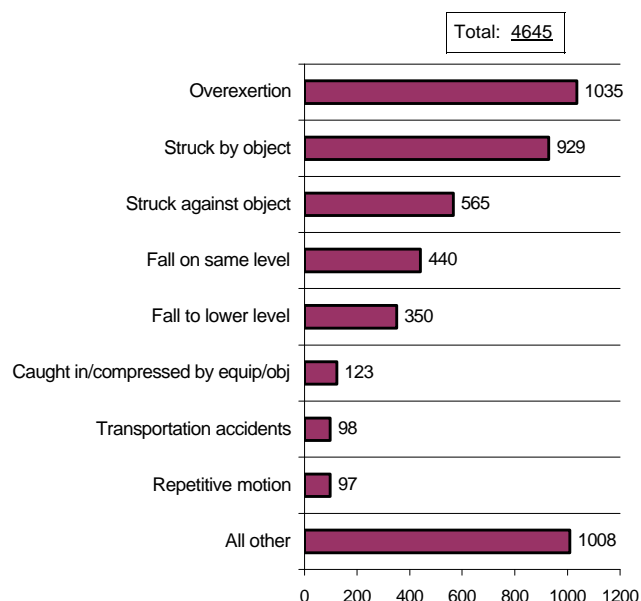
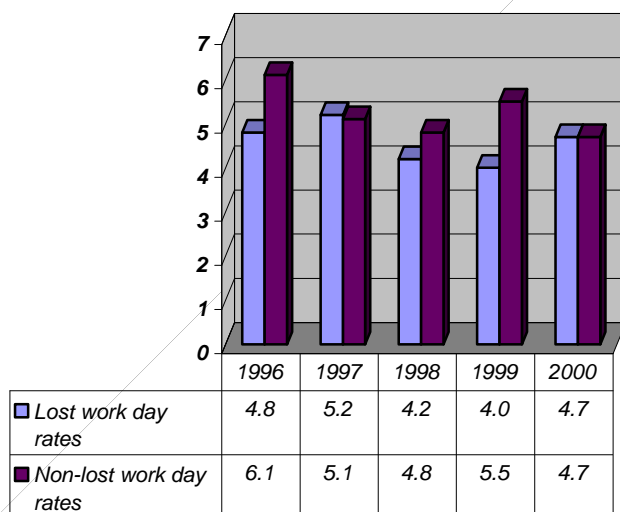


Chart 6: Lost work day v. Non-lost work day incidence rates¹ of nonfatal injuries and illnesses (per 100 full time workers), Construction, 1996-2000



while about 5,500 injuries were cases without lost work days. Days away from work are counted if the employee misses any days AFTER the initial day of the occurrence of the injury or diagnosis of illness. Restricted work time is defined as light duty or a temporary transfer of duties due to an occupational injury or illness. Non-lost workday cases are those cases in which the employee is injured but returns the next day to work with no restrictions. The incidence rate¹ in 2000 of lost workday cases per 100 full time workers was 4.7. This represents an increase in the rate from the prior two years. The incidence rate of non-lost workday cases was 4.7 in 2000, representing a decrease from each of the four prior years. (See Chart 6.)

¹ Incidence rates represent the number of injuries and illnesses per 100 full-time workers and were calculated as: $(N/EH) \times 200,000$ where

N = number of injuries and illnesses

EH = total hours worked by all employees during the calendar year.
200,000 = base for 100 equivalent full-time workers (working 40 hours per week, 50 weeks per year).

NOTE: Because of rounding, components may not add to totals.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, in cooperation with participating State agencies.

Massachusetts Occupational Injuries and Illnesses 2000 Report: Construction Industry



This report was compiled from data collected by the Massachusetts Division of Occupational Safety under a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Data has also been included from the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries and the Massachusetts Division of Employment and Training.

To obtain additional copies of this or other publications, contact us at:

Massachusetts Division of Occupational Safety
399 Washington Street, 5th Floor
Boston, MA 02108
(617) 727-3452

Or visit our Web site at:
www.state.ma.us/dos/pages/stats.htm

For additional information, please go to: www.bls.gov/IIF or www.osha.gov

Reports are available for all major industry groups in Massachusetts: Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing; Construction; Manufacturing; Transportation and Public Utilities; Wholesale and Retail Trade; Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate; and Services. To obtain information about the Mining industry please contact the U.S. Department of Labor, Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) at www.msha.gov or the U.S. Department of Labor MSHA Northeast District office at (724) 772-2333.



Massachusetts Division of Occupational Safety
399 Washington Street, 5th Floor
Boston, MA 02108
